U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE-Public Health Service

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
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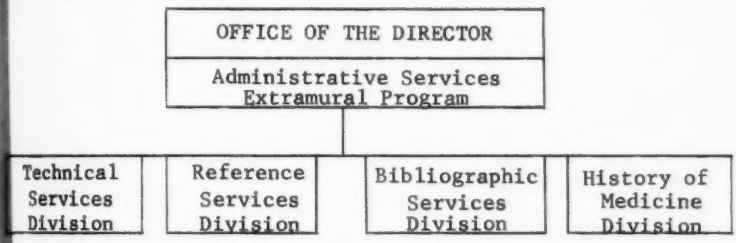
MEDICAL LIBRARY

REORGANIZATION

The Surgeon General of the Public Health Service has approved a reorganization of divisional elements of the National Library of Medicine. Inaugurated on August 16, the new organization is as follows:



As Chief of the Technical Services Division Mr. Samuel Lazerow supervises selection, acquisition, and cataloging of the Library's materials.

The Chief of the Reference Services Division is Mrs. Mildred Crowe Langner, who supervises the traditional public service of the Library and related book-handling activities. This includes response to reference questions, interlibrary loan and its allied photoduplication activities, circulation control, and maintenance of the collection. These functions had previously been divided between a Reference Division and a Circulation Division. Except for a few changes the new division is a return to a former NLM organizational pattern.

Mr. Seymour I. Taine is the Chief of the Bibliographic Services Division, supervising the production of the Index Medicus, the Bibliography of Medical Reviews, the MEDLARS project and the new bibliographical ventures which will derive from it. The new division is essentially the former Index Division under a new name.

The Chief of the History of Medicine Division is Dr. John B. Blake; he supervises the maintenance, development, and exploitation of the Library's tremendous historical resources.

The reorganization of the Reference Services Division, particularly, required reassignment and detailing of personnel. Mr. Robert B. Austin heads the Reference Section; Mr. Charles A. Roos is Assistant Head. Mr. Edward A. Miller, who served in the old Index Catalogue Division and also as Assistant Chief of the Index Division, has become the Head of the Circulation Section; five provisional working groups under his management have been formed, with supervisors as follows:

Interlibrary Loan Group	Miss Maxine E. Kennedy
Photoduplication Group	Mrs. Nellie R. Markham
Binding Group	Mrs. Geneva E. T. Greene
Stack Service Group	Mr. Philip C. Coleman
Poor Paper Group	Mr. William Wiedman

Formal assignment of the functions of the Extramural Program under the Deputy Director has been made. They are:

--Supporting and encouraging programs of publication support to assist scientific groups in the organization, analysis, and processing of medical literature;

--Studying the adequacy and availability of library collections of the scientific medical literature in relation to national research and educational requirements, and developing plans for strengthening these resources;

--Supporting basic studies designed to contribute to the improvement of information-handling concepts and mechanisms applicable to the storage, retrieval, and dissemination of medical literature;

--Encouraging productive scholarship by supporting qualified individuals engaged in work on research monographs, critical literature reviews, bibliographies, special data compilations, and historical studies relating to the medical sciences.

Most of the Extramural Program objectives will require new legislation before they can be implemented. An exception is the NLM Scientific Translation Program, formed in July of this year by the transfer and amalgamation of the former NIH translation program with NLM's translation activities under Public Law 480. The new Head of the Scientific Translation Program, Dr. Mordecai Hoseh, formerly of Chemical Abstracts Service, will report for duty at NLM later in September.

MEDLARS PROJECT BEGINS

The schedule for the MEDLARS project called for signing of a contract in June and the beginning of work immediately thereafter. Vexing delays occurred for various reasons, and the contractual arrangements were not completed until mid-August.

The General Electric Company was chosen as the contractor; the GE team, under the direction of Mr. R. F. Garrard, began work on August 14. Since then there have been daily, and sometimes all-day, conferences between the GE and the NLM staffs.

The MEDLARS project, programmed over a two-year period of study, looks toward the development of a more flexible system for storage, retrieval, and print-out of bibliographical citations. It is expected that a computer will be employed at the heart of the operation.

The new system will have as a major output the preparation of the Index Medicus; but beyond this it will have the capability of producing various additional outputs, large and small, at differing time intervals. The first phase of the project, embracing preliminary systems design, should be completed by February 1962.

MEDLARS stands for "Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System," and when the acronym was assigned NLM was aware that Webster defines the word as "fruit resembling a crab apple." But it was only later that a cataloger of the History of Medicine staff noted this paragraph entitled "Of Medlars" in Thomas Cogan's Haven of Health published in London in 1584: "Medlars are cold and drie in the seconde degree; they streine or binde the stomacke, and therefore they are good after meales, especially for such as bee over laxative, being much eaten they engender melancholie, and bee rather meat than medicine, as Galen saith. Yet of the stones or kernelles of Medlars, may be made a very good medicine for the stone, as Matthio writeth. The stones of medlars made in powder, driveth out the stone of the reynes, if you take a spoonefull thereof in white wine wherein the rootes of perselie have bene boyled."

NLM hopes that the new system will not engender melancholy, and that it will purge the present complicated bibliographical practices of much gravelly dross, taken with or without white wine.

PACIFIC SCIENCE CONGRESS

The Tenth Pacific Science Cnngress, held in Honolulu August 22-September 2, included for the first time a section on scientific information, and more than forty papers were presented on topics relating to problems of communication of the results of research and national efforts to improve scientific information services. Mr. Scott Adams, Deputy Director of NLM, presented a paper on the biomedical library resources of the Pacific area. Copies of a preliminary directory of these resources are available on request from the National Library of Medicine.

TRANSLATION OF SOVIET JOURNALS

The National Library of Medicine's Scientific Translation Program has announced discontinuance of support for the translation of three Russian journals: Journal of Microbiology, Epidemiology, and Immunobiology; Problems of Hematology and Blood Transfusion; Problems of Virology.

This decision was precipitated by the contractor's request to be released from his contract for their translation. Commercial editions of these three journals have been announced for independent publication by two firms: Pergamon Press, Ltd, Headington Hill Hall, Oxford, England, and Royer and Roger, Inc., 1000 Vermont Avenue, Washington 5, D. C. Inquiries should be addressed to the above named firms.

BOARD OF REGENTS

The President has nominated and has asked the Senate to confirm Dr. Saul Jarcho of New York City and Dr. Norman Q. Brill of Los Angeles to be members of the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine for terms of four years. Dr. Jarcho is an internist in private practice, a medical historian, and a former member of the Armed Forces Medical Library Advisory Group. Dr. Brill is Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neuropsychiatry of the School of Medicine, University of California at Los Angeles. The membership of the Board for 1961-62 is as follows:

Worth B. Daniels, M.D., Chairman (Washington, D.C.)	[1962]
Norman Q. Brill, M.D. (Los Angeles)*	[1965]
Leonard D. Heaton, Lieutenant General, M.C. (U.S. Army)	
Maynard K. Hine, D.D.S. (Indianapolis)	[1963]
Hugh H. Hussey, Jr., M.D. (Washington, D.C.)	[1964]
Saul W. Jarcho, M.D. (New York City)*	[1965]
Edward C. Kenney, Rear Admiral, M.C. (U.S. Navy)	
Thomas E. Keys (Rochester, Minnesota)	[1962]
William S. Middleton, M.D. (Veterans Administration)	
L. Quincy Mumford (Library of Congress)	
Oliver K. Niess, Major General, M.C. (U.S. Air Force)	
Robert M. Stecher, M.D. (Cleveland)	[1964]
Luther L. Terry, M.D. (U.S. Public Health Service)	
William L. Valk, M.D. (Kansas City, Kansas)	[1964]
Theodore R. Van Dellen, M.D. (Chicago)	[1963]
Warner L. Wells, M.D. (Chapel Hill)	[1963]
John T. Wilson, Ph.D. (National Science Foundation)	

*Confirmation of nomination pending in the U. S. Senate

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